Too Few Sources to Solve a Family Mystery?  
Some Greenfields in Central and Western New York

By Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS

The candidate for Calista's father is named in only three records. None identifies relatives. Nonetheless, documentary details, context, and DNA tests provide a basis for identifying his children and likely parents.

Calista Jane Greenfield knew neither her parents’ names nor her birthplace. She knew, however, her birth date—19 March 1828.1 Two of her granddaughters—sisters—related Calista's explanation:

Calista's mother married despite parental disapproval. The newlyweds soon had two children, first Calista and then Frank or Ralph. Seeking work, the father left the family and never returned. Without support, the mother and children went to a poorhouse, where the mother died. When Calista was five, a Hoffman family took her into their home. After she cried for her brother, the Hoffmans took him also. They raised the children as servants.2

© Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS; Tom@JonesResearchServices.com. Dr. Jones, one of the NGS Quarterly's editors, works as a genealogical researcher, editor, and educator. Melinde Lutz Byrne, FASG, edited this piece, which—like all NGS Quarterly submissions—was double-blind reviewed. The author thanks Blaine Bettinger and Angie Bush for their comments on a presubmission draft of the paper. He is grateful to Greenfield descendants who provided DNA samples for this study and for their permissions to use their names and cite their test results. He also thanks Darla Harrison Stimbert, a descendant of Luther Greenfield, for her research contributions. The author descends from Calista Jane (Greenfield) Tucker. Living people mentioned herein identified their parents; the cited DNA test results support those identifications. Referenced websites were last checked on 23 April 2015.

1. For Calista’s birth date, see “The Family Record of George M. D. Tucker,” two handwritten pages, probably late 1880s; location unknown; photocopy, 1965, author's files. Calista was the likely informant. For corroboration of the year, see Antrim Co., Mich., Record of Deaths 3:69, no. 127, Calista J. Tucker, 8 October 1907; County Clerk, Bellaire, Mich.; microfilm 980,363, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City. The microfilm’s signboard and the library catalog show this as volume 2, but the microfilm’s first frame shows volume 3. Also, 1880 U.S. census, Kent Co., Mich., population schedule, Solon Twp., enumeration district (ED) 112, p. 12, dwelling/family 126, George M. D. Tucker household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm T9, roll 587. For corroboration of the month, see 1900 U.S. census, Marion Co., Ind., pop. sch., Center Twp., “City of Indianapolis Suburban Population,” ED 16, sheet 3A, dwell. 52, fam. 55, Earl McLain household; NARA microfilm T623, roll 387.

2. Paraphrased from Bernice (Leach) Turner, interview by author, 1 November 1980; notes in author's files. Also, Fern (Leach) Dr’y to Ina L. (McLain) McPeek, letter, probably 1972; photocopy, author's files. Bernice said Calista's brother was Frank; Fern identified him as Ralph.
TESTING THE STORY

On 9 June 1847 Calista, nineteen, married George M. D. Tucker at West Somerset, in Niagara County, New York. In 1850 George and “Melissa”? “Malissa” Tucker appeared together in two Niagara County households. [Elbenezer]. L. Tucker (George’s father) headed one. Isaac “Hofman” (Huffman) in an adjacent town, headed the other.

Besides Calista (twenty-one) and George Tucker (twenty-two), Isaac’s 1850 household included himself (forty-two), wife Julia A. (thirty-seven), son George (fourteen), son William (seven), laborer Franklin Greenfield (twenty), and Betsy A. Lyon (forty-seven). All except Betsy, a Connecticut native, were born in New York State. Franklin Greenfield apparently was Calista’s brother, Frank, of the family story.

New York state censuses for 1855, 1865, and 1875 usually give birthplaces as a New York county or another state or country but not for Calista and Frank. By 1855 Calista had moved to Michigan. Frank’s 1855-census birthplace is blank, he was not enumerated in 1865, and he died in 1869. In 1861, however, when

3. For the date, see Tucker, “The Family Record of George M. D. Tucker.” For West Somerset, see George M. D. Tucker, questionnaire 3—402, 1 August 1898; in George M. D. Tucker (Pvt., Cos. C and F, 3rd Mich. Cav., Civil War), pension no. S.C. 874,447, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications . . . , 1861–1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group (RG) 15; National Archives (NA), Washington, D.C.


enlisting for military service, Frank reported he was born in Cayuga County, New York.\(^8\)

Isaac Huffman died before 1855, but his sons’ birthplaces corroborate Frank’s report.\(^9\) The 1855 census says William “Hoofman,” thirteen, was born in Cayuga County, but it leaves blank his brother George’s birthplace.\(^10\) The 1865 and 1875 enumerations give Cayuga County as the birthplace for George, thirty and forty, and William, twenty-four and thirty-four.\(^11\)

George and William Huffman’s births in Cayuga County in 1834–35 and 1840–42, respectively, mean their parents were there by the mid-1830s. Their father, Isaac, in his twenties, lived there in 1830—in the town of Conquest—with a female in her sixties.\(^12\)

The Huffmans’ land transactions and census enumerations suggest a prolonged move from central to western New York. On 20 April 1839 Isaac S. Huffman and his wife Juliann, of Conquest, sold two tracts totaling twenty-five acres in Conquest’s lot 38.\(^13\) In 1840 Isaac appeared in both Cayuga and Niagara counties. Ages and sexes in both 1840 households agree with those in 1850 of Isaac, his wife Julia, their son George, Franklin Greenfield, and “Melisa” Tucker. The male between fifteen and nineteen in the 1840 Cayuga County household may have been a farmhand. The Niagara County 1840 household also includes a female between five and nine and a man in his fifties employed in agriculture.\(^14\)

On 15 November 1842 Isaac and Juliann, “of Conquest” sold twenty-five-acre lot 26 there, in the town of Brutus. They acknowledged both deeds in Cayuga


\(\text{9. For Isaac’s death, on 16 March 1853, see FamilySearch } > \text{New York, Probate Records, 1628–1971 } > \text{Niagara } > \text{Probates 1835–1970 box H3 } > \text{image 1073, Julia Ann Huffman, Proof for Administration, 24 March 1853.}\)

\(\text{10. 1855 N.Y. census, Niagara Co., Town of Hartland, unpaginated, dwell. 89, fam. 91, William Hoofman; and dwell. 90, fam. 92, George Hoofman.}\)

\(\text{11. 1865 N.Y. census, Town of Hartland, ED 2, p. 6, dwell. 45, fam. 48, George W. Huffman; digital image, FamilySearch } > \text{New York, State Census, 1865 } > \text{Niagara } > \text{Hartland, ED 02 } > \text{image 4. Also, ibid., image 6, p. 9, dwell. 73, fam. 76, William Huffman. Also, 1875 New York Census, Town of Hartland, unpaginated, dwell. 253, fam. 250, Wm Huffman; digital image, FamilySearch } > \text{New York, State Census, 1875 } > \text{Niagara } > \text{Hartland } > \text{image 14. Also, ibid. } > \text{image 29, dwell. 530, fam. 532, George Huffman.}\)

\(\text{12. 1830 U.S. census, Cayuga Co., N.Y., Town of Conquest, p. 404, Isaac Huffman household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 88.}\)


\(\text{14. 1840 U.S. census, Cayuga Co., N.Y., Town of Conquest, p. 674, Isaac S. Huffman household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 270. Also, ibid., Niagara Co., N.Y., Town of Somerset, p. 285, Isaac Hoffman household; roll 311. Two people in the household were employed in agriculture.}\)
County. Their first Niagara County land purchase was thirty-seven acres on 10 November 1845.

Family tales about Calista Greenfield’s early years seem accurate. The Huffmans took Calista and her brother into their Cayuga County household between 1830 and 1840. The children’s youth and Frank’s enlistment record agree they were born in Cayuga. The tracts the Huffmans sold in 1839 and 1842 lie about twelve miles from the county poorhouse, erected in 1826. Anecdotal evidence suggests its records do not survive.

THE CHILDREN’S FATHER

If the above reasoning and Calista’s granddaughters’ tales are correct, a Greenfield household in Cayuga County in 1830 would contain a girl and boy under age five and no other children. Having eloped without parental support, the adults in that household likely would be in their late teens or early twenties.

Thirteen Greenfield households were enumerated in Cayuga County in 1830. Two included a boy and girl under age five. In one, the oldest male was in his fifties and its oldest female in her thirties. Besides two children under age five, it included a boy five to nine and a girl ten to fourteen. This was not likely Calista and Frank’s family.


18. For the poorhouse’s establishment, see Elliot Storke, History of Cayuga County, 1789–1879 (Syracuse: D. Mason, 1879), 73. For locations of the lots and poorhouse, see David H. Burr, An Atlas of the State of New York (New York: privately published, 1829), map 40 (Cayuga County in 1829). For the distance, see Google Maps (https://www.google.com/maps/), directions from Cayuga County Nursing Home, 7451 County House Road, Auburn, N.Y., to 9900–9958 Oneil Road, Port Byron, N.Y. If its records for the 1830s have survived, their location is unknown: “I was told by my contact [a sheriff’s officer] that when the Poor House turned into a nursing home [in the 1940s], several rickety old buildings were torn down. There were ‘tons’ of scattered papers and records lying all over the place that were thrown away and/or burned.” See Christine J. Spengler, “A Report With Some Photo Images From County House Cemetery: Town Of Sennett—Cayuga County, New York,” January 2007, at The USGenWeb Project (http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycayuga/cem/ccem197a/index.htm).


20. Ibid., Town of Locke, p. 236, Stephen Greenfield household.
In contrast, Nathaniel Greenfield's 1830 household has the predicted composition—a girl and boy under age five, a male in his twenties, and a female between fifteen and twenty. In the only Greenfield household in the town of Aurelius, they lived apart from other Cayuga County Greenfields, who were enumerated in Locke and Sempronius, adjoining towns that do not abut Aurelius.  

Consistent with Calista’s memories, Nathaniel left his family. On 14 April 1839, claiming he was twenty-seven, a laborer, and born in Herkimer County, New York, he enlisted in the United States Army at Buffalo, New York, a few days west of Aurelius via the Erie Canal. Seven months later Lieutenant James Duncan charged Nathaniel with “Mutinous Conduct” and “Habitual Drunkenness.” At his court-martial, on 29 January 1840, Nathaniel pleaded innocence. He lost his case, however, and the judge imposed a harsh sentence:

To forfeit all Pay and allowances up to the execution of the Sentence, — except the amounts due the Sutler [civilian provisioner] and laundress — to be marked indelibly on the back with the word DRUNKARD in large letters;— to have half his head shaved;— to be dressed in parti-colored clothing, and drummed out of Service.  

Disgraced, perhaps branded with eight “large letters,” and likely alcoholic, Nathaniel soon disappeared under a new name or died. No Nathaniel Greenfield appears in indexes to the 1840 United States census, the 1842 Upper Canada census, and the 1851 Canada census. Two Nathaniel Greenfields appear in the United States 1850 index. Both were younger than the New York man—one born in Maryland in 1814–15, the other in Ohio in 1824–25.  

24. Military punishment by branding continued until 1872, when a Congressional act abolished it. See United States, The Statutes at Large, vol. 17 (Boston: Little, Brown, 1873), 261, chapter 316, section 2, which made it “illegal to brand, mark, or tattoo on the body of any soldier by sentence of court-martial.”  
26. 1850 U.S. census, Wayne Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Sugar Creek Township, fol. 62r, dwell./fam. 150, Nathaniel Greenfield household, and fol. 64r, dwell./fam. 179, Zel Greenfield household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 739.
NATHANIEL’S PARENTS

DNA samples from Nathaniel’s descendants help identify his parents. His son’s line has died out. 27 His daughter’s descendants include living adults six generations from Nathaniel’s parents—fifth cousins to same-generation descendants of Nathaniel’s siblings.

Fifth cousins may inherit copies of an ancestral couple’s autosomal DNA on various chromosomes, averaging .0488 percent, or 3.32 centimorgans (cM) of the descendants’ DNA. 28 Some fifth cousins inherit less or no autosomal DNA from the same ancestral couple, but others inherit more. About 10–15 percent of fifth cousins share enough DNA for current tests to reveal a relationship. 29 Identifying Nathaniel’s parents involved four overlapping processes:

1. Supplying DNA testing kits to enough of Nathaniel’s descendants to include some of the 10–15 percent with sufficient DNA to link to other fifth cousins
2. Identifying a candidate couple for Nathaniel’s parents and finding their living descendants
3. Supplying DNA testing kits to enough of the candidate couple’s descendants to include ones with sufficient DNA to link to other fifth cousins
4. Comparing test results of both pools, looking for evidence indicating or contraindicating a parent-child relationship between Nathaniel and the parental candidates

Eleven of Nathaniel’s descendants provided samples for autosomal DNA testing and for comparison at GEDmatch.com. Figure 1 shows four of their descents. Those traced lineages agree with DNA-based estimates of the descendants’ generations to a common ancestor. 30 Nathaniel’s daughter Calista and her

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27. See appendix.
30. GEDmatch: Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research (v2.gedmatch.com) > GEDmatch Forums > DNA Utilities > Interpreting DNA Comparison Results > Subject: Does MRCA get thrown off when you match on both, message 3, undated, by Jim Bartlett, Project Administrator. He writes: “The GEN [most recent common ancestor] calculation is a mathematical calculation based on the few parameters we have: SNPs [single-nucleotide polymorphisms], cMs [centimorgans].” Both numbers correlate with genetic-relationship distances. For a caveat, see “GEDmatch.com: DNA One-to-One Comparison Entry Form,” GEDmatch, which says “Estimates of ‘generations’ are provided as a relative means of comparison, and should not be taken too literally.” For definitions, see International Society of Genetic Genealogy, “Category: Glossary,” ISOGG Wiki.
Some Greenfields in Central and Western New York

Figure 1

Selected Descents Traced to Nathaniel Greenfield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERATIONS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nathaniel Greenfield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Calista Jane = George M. D. (Greenfield) Tucker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Esther (Tucker) Ganoung</td>
<td>Ida May (Tucker) McLain Leach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Elmer Ganoung</td>
<td>Earl McLain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elsie B. Ganoung</td>
<td>Lennis (McLain) Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Descendant X</td>
<td>Nancy (Harris) Judd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: For Calista’s parentage and husband, see the text.
For Esther, Ida, and Meribah’s parents, see George M. D. Tucker, questionnaire 3—402, 1 August 1898; in George M. D. Tucker ( Pvt., Cos. C and F, 3rd Mich. Cav., Civil War), pension no. S.C. 874,447, Case Files of Approved Pension Files 1861–1934 . . . , Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
For Elmer’s parents, see Kent Co., Mich., Returns of Marriages in the County of Kent for
the Quarter Ending March 30 A.D. 1911, p. 11, Ganoung-Nelson, 25 February 1911; digital
> 004209154 > image 394. For Elsie’s, see 1920 U.S. census, Cook Co., Ill., population
schedule, Chicago, Ward 24, enumeration district (ED) 1354, sheet 2B, dwelling 31, family
52, Elmer “Ganong” household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
microfilm T625, roll 335.
For Earl’s parents, see Van Buren Co., Mich., Return of Births in the County of Van Buren for
the Year Ending 31 December 1876, p. 256, no. 890, Earl McLain; digital image, FamilySearch > Michigan, Births, 1867–1902 > 004206431 > image 424. For Lennis’s parents, see 1920
U.S. census, Sandusky Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Green Creek Twp., Clyde Village, ED 84, sheet
6A, dwell. 161, fam. 167, Earl McLain household; NARA microfilm T625, roll 1428.
For Jesse’s parents, see Allegan Co., Mich., Return of Births in the County of Allegan
For Violet Harris’s parents, see St. Clair Co., Mich., Return of Marriages in the County of
St. Clair for the Quarter Ending June 30 A.D. 1922, record 17202, Pannill-Young, 14 June
Huron, ward 4, precinct 8, ED 117, sheet 1B, dwell. 408, fam. 572, John Harris household;
NARA microfilm T625, roll 795.
husband are the cousins’ common ancestors, traced four generations back. Reflecting different amounts of identical DNA segments, the third-cousins’ estimated genetic distances to a common ancestor range from 3.4 to 6.9 generations, averaging 3.97.31 Ida, traced to three generations before Judd and the author, is their common ancestor. Because Judd and the author descend from each of Ida’s husbands, they share less DNA than might descendants from a couple, consistent with their estimated genetic distance of 3.8 generations.

Nathaniel’s Candidate Parents

Three events provide evidence of Nathaniel’s birth year:

- As a Cayuga County household head reported in his twenties in 1830, he was born in 1800–10.
- In mid-1827 Nathaniel married, conceived Calista, and set up house. He likely was at least fifteen, implying birth by mid-1812. If he was a few years over fifteen, as seems probable, he was born a few years before 1812.
- Enlisting in April 1839, Nathaniel gave his age as twenty-seven, indicating birth in 1812–13. He may have lowered his age, perhaps to facilitate enlistment.

If born in 1800–13, Nathaniel was between ages seven and twenty in 1820. He would appear in the 1820 census as a tally mark for a male under twenty-five, likely in a Greenfield household. Nathaniel’s enumeration as a young father in Cayuga County in 1830 and his Herkimer County birthplace suggest his parents lived in either place or both. In 1820 fourteen Greenfield households, likely interrelated, were enumerated in those two counties, the counties between them, and those adjoining them. Nearly all include a male under age twenty-five.32

31. “GEDmatch.Com Autosomal Comparison,” on-request reports, GEDmatch, “one-to-one” comparisons among kits F202780, F299963, M201030, and M115137. Family Tree DNA supplied kits F202790 (Jones) and F299963 (Mulder), and 23andMe supplied kits M201030 (Descendant X) and M115137 (Judd). Genetic comparisons in this paper use, except where described otherwise, segments greater than 7 cMs and 700 SNPs, statistically indicating they are “identical by descent” (IBD). See International Society of Genetic Genealogy, ISOGG Wiki (http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Identical_by_descent), for “Identical By Descent.”

Of the fourteen household heads, one—Thomas Greenfield—may have associated with Isaac Huffman. A seemingly inconsequential detail suggests a connection. Isaac’s heirs were his remarried widow, Julia Ann Sherwood, and two sons. Although the estate papers do not name Frank or Calista, they mention a fifty-cent debt that Isaac owed “T. Greenfield.” If the estate administrator forgot to cross a capital F, leaving a T, the entry refers to Frank. Otherwise, it inexplicably refers to Thomas, who may have lived in Cayuga County when the Huffmans took Nathaniel Greenfield’s children into their home. Beyond Thomas’s 1820 household composition and a possible Huffman connection, three considerations make him a candidate for Nathaniel’s father:

- In 1810 and 1850 Thomas lived in Cayuga County—Nathaniel’s residence in 1830. Thomas lived near Cayuga County in 1840.
- Thomas was in enlistee Nathaniel’s birth county—Herkimer—in 1813, when Nathaniel probably was a young child.
- Thomas’s wife Mary had a brother Nathaniel Walters, for whom they may have named a son.

Thomas and Mary’s youngest child said they had twelve children. Their documented children include no Nathaniel, but identifying Thomas and Mary’s children is problematic:


37. Roger F. Williams, Cold Brook Methodism (Russia, N.Y.: Cold Brook Methodist Episcopal Church, 1929), 42. The history includes sketches of several of the church’s “old families.” The Walters sketch, on pages 41–43, identifies “Mary (Polly) Walters,” who “married —— Greenfield.” Replete with exact birth, death, and marriage dates spanning 1742 through 1907, the account likely is based on longstanding family records.

38. A. J. Baughman, ed., “Captain Christopher Au,” in Centennial Biographical History of Richland County, Ohio (Chicago: Lewis, 1901), 425. Au had married Laura Greenfield, Thomas and Mary’s daughter. Laura lived in Richfield County in 1901. Probably she provided the information, including her mother’s maiden name and date and place of death, from her knowledge and family records.
Thomas's 1850 household shows only children of his wife Lydia. The couple married on 11 January 1837.\textsuperscript{39}

The counties where Thomas lived toward his life's end have no estate record for him that might name his children.\textsuperscript{40}

Thomas never bought land in those counties or showed evidence of owning land his children would inherit.\textsuperscript{41}

Thomas and Mary lived where counties and towns recorded no marriages before 1847.\textsuperscript{42} Their only known church records mention no weddings.\textsuperscript{43}

Nonetheless, Thomas and Mary had at least three children whose descendants can be traced to the present:

- Luther Greenfield gave his parents as Thomas Greenfield and Mary Walters.\textsuperscript{44}
- Caleb Greenfield named his parents as Thomas and Mary Greenfield.\textsuperscript{45}
- Lovilla (“Lavilly”) Greenfield joined Deerfield Baptist Church, near Utica, New York, in 1824, soon after Thomas and Mary Greenfield transferred their membership there. In 1826 the church gave Thomas and Lovilla letters of recommendation to transfer elsewhere, and Mary received a similar letter in 1827.\textsuperscript{46} The juxtapositions suggest Lovilla was Thomas and Mary’s daughter.

\textsuperscript{39}. For the parent-child relationships, see “Family record of Thomas Greenfield and Lydia Wattles”; Mather file; Cayuga Co. historian’s office, Auburn, N.Y. For the marriage, see Lydia Greenfield, widow’s declaration, 2 July 1855; in Thomas Greenfield (Sergeant, Capt. Lemuel Potter’s company, N.Y. Militia, War of 1812), warrant 50-80-93906, Unindexed Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1812–1855, RG 15, NA–Washington. Two witnesses confirmed the marriage. See Leonard L. Tompkins and Phebe Connelly, depositions, 5 July 1855; in ibid.


\textsuperscript{43}. Deerfield Baptist Church, “1800 Record Book of Arnold Wells,” church records, 1800–1828; First Baptist Church of North Utica, North Utica, N.Y.

\textsuperscript{44}. Certificate of Marriage, no. 794, Greenfield-French, 6 October 1889; New York State Department of Health, Albany. Also, Bradford Co., Pa., Orphan’s Court, Marriage Licenses 7:356, Greenfield-Weaver application, license, and certificate, 9–12 May 1892; digital image, FamilySearch > Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885–1950 > 004811637 > image 211.

\textsuperscript{45}. Waushara Co., Wisc., Registration of Marriages 2:19, Greenfield-Baker, 19 September 1870; State Historical Society, Madison; FHL microfilm 1,275,608.

\textsuperscript{46}. Deerfield Baptist Church, “1800 Record Book of Arnold Wells.”
Sources: For Luther, Caleb, and Lovilla's parentage, see the text.
Figure 2 shows lineages traced from these siblings to descendants who gave DNA samples. Their common ancestors, Thomas and Mary Greenfield, are five generations earlier. Reflecting varying amounts of identical autosomal DNA segments, Bennett’s estimated genetic distance from sisters Marx and Hansen is 4.4 generations to their common ancestor, and Greenfield’s distance from the sisters is 7.5 generations. His genetic distance from their first-cousin Shawen is 7.1 generations. Bennett and Greenfield did not inherit enough identical DNA to reliably estimate a genetic distance.

DNA Comparisons of Thomas’s and Nathaniel’s Descendants

At least seven pairs of Greenfield descendants, in varying combinations, inherited identical autosomal-DNA segments greater than 7.0 cM. See table 1. Each pair matches a fifth-generation descendant of Nathaniel, from figure 1, with a fifth-generation descendant of Thomas, from figure 2. One pair shares identical segments on two chromosomes. Two pairs (three donors) have an identical segment on chromosome 3, and three pairs (four donors) have an identical segment on chromosome 18.

Table 1 suggests Nathaniel’s and Thomas’s descendants have a common ancestor within six generations and thus are fifth cousins or closer:

- Five of the seven pairs’ estimated genetic distances are 5.1 generations or less from their common ancestors. These seven average 5.64 generations to their common ancestors. These distances, consistent with fourth cousins, are closer than the six generations traced from Nathaniel’s DNA-donor descendants to his parents.
- The paired samples come from four of Nathaniel’s eleven descendants with test results on GEDmatch.com (36.36 percent) and five of Thomas’s seven (71.43 percent)—a combined probability of 25.97 percent. All three percentages exceed the approximately 10–15 percent probability of sharing enough autosomal DNA to detect a fifth cousin.

Those considerations and table-1’s pairings support just one of five relationships between Nathaniel and Thomas:

47. “GEDmatch.Com Autosomal Comparison,” GEDmatch, kits A190412 (Shawen), A839038 (Hansen), F329609 (Greenfield), F329613 (Bennett), and M123945 (Young). Ancestry.com supplied kits A190412 and A839038, FamilyTreeDNA supplied kits F329613 and F329609, and 23andMe supplied kit M123945.

48. The largest segments that Greenfield and Bennett have in common are two 5.0 cM segments of 387 and 230 SNPs, respectively, on chromosomes 2 and 4. Their largest sequence of identical SNPs is 802 on a 1.8-cM segment of chromosome 13.

49. The product of 36.36 percent and 71.43 percent is 25.97 percent.

50. “What is the probability that my relative and I share enough DNA for Family Finder to detect?,” FamilyTreeDNA. Also, “The Probability of Detecting Different Types of Cousins,” 23andMe.
### Table 1

**Pairs of Greenfield Autosomal-DNA Test Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRACED GREENFIELD ANCESTOR</th>
<th>DNA DONOR</th>
<th>LONGEST COMMON SEGMENT &gt;7, IN CENTIMORGANS</th>
<th>SERIAL SNP COUNT</th>
<th>ESTIMATED GENERATIONS TO COMMON ANCESTORS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Cheryl Mulder</td>
<td>7.6 (chromosome 1)</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Shawen, through Lovilla</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Descendant X</td>
<td>14.9 (chromosome 2)</td>
<td>1543</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gerald Greenfield, through Caleb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Thomas Jones</td>
<td>12.9 (chromosome 3)</td>
<td>3469</td>
<td>5.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martha Marx, through Caleb</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Thomas Jones</td>
<td>12.9 (chromosome 3)</td>
<td>3437</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frances Hansen, through Lovilla</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Nancy Judd</td>
<td>14.9 (chromosome 17)</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sharon Bennett, through Luther</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Nancy Judd</td>
<td>14.3 (chromosome 18)</td>
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<td>Frances Hansen, through Lovilla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>Thomas Jones</td>
<td>14.4 (chromosome 18)</td>
<td>3441</td>
<td>[shown in row 4]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frances Hansen, through Lovilla</td>
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<td>Frances Hansen, through Lovilla</td>
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**Sources:** “GEDmatch.Com Autosomal Comparison,” on-request listings, GEDmatch: Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research (v2.gedmatch.com), kits A190412 (Shawen), A839038 (Hansen), M123945 (Marx), F202780 (Jones), F299963 (Mulder), F329609 (Greenfield), F329613 (Bennett), M115137 (Judd), and M201030 (Descendant X). Ancestry.com tested Hansen, Marx, and Shawen; 23AndMe tested Descendant X and Judd; and Family Tree DNA tested Bennett, Mulder, Greenfield, and Jones.
• **First cousins.** If Thomas and Nathaniel were first cousins, their paternal grandparents would be their common ancestors—two generations older. Thomas’s and Nathaniel’s fifth-generation descendants would be seven generations from those common ancestors, and identical genetic segments would be infrequent—below 5 percent. Only two of table 1’s seven pairs, however, exceed 5.1 generations to their common ancestors. That and the table’s average estimated distances—5.64 generations—suggest common ancestors closer than seven generations.

• **Uncle and nephew.** If one of Thomas’s siblings were Nathaniel’s parent, Thomas and Nathaniel would be uncle and nephew. Thomas’s parents—thus, Nathaniel’s grandparents—would be their common ancestors. Thomas’s fifth-generation descendants would be six generations from his parents, and Nathaniel’s fifth-generation descendants would be seven generations from his grandparents. The midpoint would be 6.5 generations. Five of the seven pairings, at 5.1 generations or less, and the 5.64-generation average genetic-distance estimation for all seven suggest a closer relationship.

• **Full Brothers.** Thomas’s ten documented siblings, born from 1776 through 1800, include no Nathaniel. No known record suggests the siblings had such a brother. Also, Thomas’s mother, born on 28 June 1758, is an unlikely mother of Nathaniel, born about 1812.

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51. “What is the probability that my relative and I share enough DNA for Family Finder to detect?,” FamilyTreeDNA. Also, “The Probability of Detecting Different Types of Cousins,” 23andMe.


54. Membership application, Alice G. Pease, national no. 336220, on James Greenfield (1753–1812, New York), approved 30 October 1942, NSDAR. For Mary’s birth year, see Find A Grave, memorial 20981768, digital image of Century Cemetery (town of Russia, Herkimer Co.), by Steve Staruch, Margaret Sweet Greenfield gravestone. The marker says “his [James Greenfield’s] wife” died on 20 September 1833, “in her 75th year.” See Robert Lorick, contributor, “Century Cemetery: Town of Russia; Herkimer County, NY,” transcription updated 27 August 2009, Herkimer Co. NY: Genealogy, History, GenWeb (http://herkimer.nysenweb.net/cemeteries/centcem.html), citing “the original September 1928 list of the tombstone readings made by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Merritt and Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Layton for the Genealogical Research Committee of the Oneida Chapter, N.Y.S. D.A.R.”
• **Half brothers.** Siblings with one parent in common share less autosomal DNA than siblings with both parents in common. Therefore, genetic distances between half siblings’ descendants average more than those between full siblings’ descendants. If Nathaniel were Thomas’s half brother, their fifth-generation descendants’ genetic distances would average more than six generations to Nathaniel and Thomas’s common parent. Besides the table-1 pairs’ estimated genetic distances, no known evidence suggests one of Thomas’s parents had a child outside their marriage.

• **Parents and child.** Thomas and Mary precede their traced fifth-generation descendants by five generations. If they were Nathaniel’s parents, they would precede his fifth-generation descendants by six generations. The respective descendants would be fourth cousins, once removed—a relationship between five and six generations to common ancestors. Those generations’ 5.5 midpoint resembles table 1’s average estimated distances to common ancestors, 5.64 generations.

The DNA donors representing Nathaniel descend from three sisters: Esther, Ida, and Meribah. See figure 1. Seven pairs of identical DNA segments between a sister’s descendant and a descendant of Thomas and Mary Greenfield indicate that one of the sisters’ four grandparents was Thomas and Mary’s child. Other candidates, including Thomas’s and Mary’s siblings and other relatives, are unlikely. The results do not, however, specify that Nathaniel Greenfield was Thomas’s son.

The sisters’ paternal grandparents can be eliminated. Neither Ebenezer Tucker nor Minerva Pierce was Thomas and Mary Greenfield’s child. Calista’s mother is unknown, but no known document suggests one of Thomas’s daughters married a Greenfield. This paper identifies Calista’s father as Nathaniel Greenfield. He was the likely conduit of the DNA her descendants share with Thomas and Mary Greenfield’s descendants.

Nathaniel apparently was Thomas and Mary Greenfield’s son. At least seven pairs of their respective traced descendants inherited identical autosomal-DNA segments, including triangulations on two chromosomes. Those factors and the segments’ measurements—centimorgans and SNP counts—support the relationship. One or two pairs would be insufficient, but seven pairings support the assertion that Thomas and Mary were Nathaniel’s parents.

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55. For the sisters’ paternal grandfather, see Michigan Division of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death (1908) no. 506, George M. D. Tucker. For their paternal grandmother, see ibid., no. 518 (1902), Caroline [(Tucker)] Bonesteel, Osceola County. Also, E. L. Tucker, declaration for pension, 15 September 1876, in Ebenezer L. Tucker, father’s pension no. 190,200, for service of Augustus P. Tucker (Co. C, 70th N.Y. Inf.), Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, NA–Washington. Ebenezer wrote that he married Minerva Pierce on 31 October 1821, five years before George’s birth. Minerva was the mother of Caroline, born six years after George.
CONCLUSION
Along with scarce historical records, DNA testing helped identify Nathaniel Greenfield’s children and parents. The only sources naming him—the 1830 federal census, an army enlistment record, and a court-martial file—identify no one related to him. Nevertheless, documentary and DNA evidence indicate that Nathaniel’s children were Calista Jane (Greenfield) Tucker and Benjamin Franklin “Frank” Greenfield and that Nathaniel’s parents were Thomas and Mary (Walters) Greenfield.

APPENDIX: EVIDENCE THAT FRANK HAS NO LIVING DESCENDANTS

1. Benjamin Franklin “Frank” Greenfield, born in 1830 at Cayuga County, New York,\(^{56}\) died of consumption on 23 December 1869 in the town of Hartland, Niagara County, New York.\(^{57}\)

Frank married (1) in 1850–53 likely in Niagara County, Christina Talcott,\(^{58}\) born in 1830–31 in Massachusetts and died apparently in 1860–65.\(^{59}\) She had moved to the town of Hartland in 1847–48.\(^{60}\) That date, her first name, and her birthplace—all given in 1855—agree she was Christina Talcott, apparent daughter of Israel F. and Julia (Barrett) Talcott, living in Hartland in 1850.\(^{61}\)

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\(^{58}\) Franklin was unmarried in 1850. See 1850 U.S. census, Niagara Co., N.Y., pop. sch., Town of Somerset, p. 713, dwell. 179, fam. 183, Isaac “Hofman” household, for Franklin Greenfield. By 1855 he was married to Christina and had a two-year-old daughter, Julia. See 1855 N.Y. Census, Niagara Co., Town of Hartland, unpaginated, dwell. 96, fam. 98, Franklin Greenfield household.

\(^{59}\) Christina was not enumerated in the contiguous Niagara County towns of Hartland, Newfane, and Somerset in 1865, when one of her daughters was living with Christina’s siblings and their spouses. See “New York, State Census, 1865,” FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1491284), database search for “Greenfield” in Niagara County and author’s line-by-line reading. Also, 1865 N.Y. census, Niagara Co., Newfane, ED 1, p. 9, visitation 61, fam. 65, Theodore W. Connor household; digital image, FamilySearch > New York, State Census, 1865 > Niagara > Newfane, E.D. 01 > image 6.

\(^{60}\) 1855 N.Y. census, Niagara Co., Town of Hartland, unpaginated, dwell. 96, fam. 98, Franklin Greenfield household.

\(^{61}\) 1850 U.S. census, Niagara Co., N.Y., pop. sch., Town of Hartland, p. 616, dwell./fam. 16, Israel F. Talcott household. For “Barrett,” see Ontario, Canada, Deaths: County of Kent, Ridgetown Division, p. 356, death record no. 20149 (1920), Joseph Francis Talcott; container 765 (unit 22); Deaths Registrations, series 80-8; Office of the Registrar General, RG 80; Archives of Ontario, Toronto; FHL microfilm 1,863,286, item 2. The informant was Joseph’s son Fred.
in 1865 Christina’s daughter Julia lived in a household with four of Christina’s apparent brothers and sisters from the 1850 Israel Talcott household.\footnote{1865 N.Y. census, Niagara Co., Newfane, ED 1, p. 9, visitation 61, fam. 65, Theodore W. Connor household.} Christina was born perhaps in the town of Richmond in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, where Israel F. Talcott lived in 1830.\footnote{1830 U.S. census, Berkshire Co., Mass., Richmond, p. 448, Israel F. "Talcot" household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 62.}

At the bride’s residence in Hartland on 27 April 1866 Frank married \textbf{(2) Sarah “Sally” (Van Orman) Thorn.}\footnote{Amasa Miller, affidavit, 24 July 1884; in “Henry, Emma (now Ellis), and Carrie Thorn,” pension no. 229,579 (service of Elias Thorn, Pvt., Co. D, 8th N.Y. Light Artillery), Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, NA–Washington. For “Van Orman,” see Emma (Thorn) Ellis, Application for Arrears of Pension, 16 June 1883; in ibid.} She was born in 1828 at Saratoga County, New York, and died on 24 August 1870 at Hartland.\footnote{For 1827–28 and Saratoga County, see 1865 New York census, Town of Hartland, ED 2, p. 20, dwell. 157 [should be 160], fam. 166, Sally Thorn household; digital image, FamilySearch > New York, State Census, 1865 > Niagara > Hartland, ED 02 > image 13. For 1828–29, see 1860 U.S. census, Niagara Co., N.Y., pop. sch., town of Hartland, p. 6, dwell./fam. 41, Nelson Thorn household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 822. For Sarah’s death, see A. H. Hill, affidavit, 11 March 1886; in “Henry, Emma (now Ellis), and Carrie Thorn,” pension no. 229,579, Civil War, RG 15, NA–Washington. Dr. Hill attended Sarah “during her last sickness.”} She had married \textbf{(1) Nelson Thorn on 29 October 1843 at Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York.}\footnote{“Saly” Thorn, “Mother’s Declaration for Pension,” 20 September 1864; in “Henry, Emma (now Ellis), and Carrie Thorn,” pension no. 229,579, Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, NA–Washington.} Leaving Sally with nine children, Nelson died on 24 November 1861 at Hartland.\footnote{For Nelson’s death, see ibid. For nine children, see Niagara County Probate Records box T2, Nelson “Thorne” file, for Sally Thorn, petition, 20 January 1862; digital image, FamilySearch > New York, Probate Records, 1629–1971 > Niagara > Probates 1835–1970 box T2 > images 928–46 at image 943.}

In 1850 Franklin, a twenty-year-old single laborer, lived in the Isaac “Hofman” household in the town of Somerset in Niagara County.\footnote{1850 U.S. census, Niagara Co., N.Y., pop. sch., Town of Somerset, p. 713, dwell. 179, fam. 183, Isaac “Hofman” household.} In 1855, with Christina and a daughter, he lived in Hartland (just south of Somerset).\footnote{1855 N.Y. census, Niagara Co., Town of Hartland, unpaginated, dwell. 96, fam. 98, Franklin Greenfield household.} In 1860 they lived in Newfane (just west of Somerset and Hartland), Niagara County. Franklin, a day laborer, owned no reported real or personal property.\footnote{1860 U.S. census, Niagara Co., N.Y., pop. sch., Town of Newfane, pp. 26–27, dwell. 199, fam. 203, Franklin B. Greenfield household.}

On 8 October 1861 at Newfane, Frank—as “Benjamin F. Greenfield”—enlisted for three years as a private in the 12th New York Light Artillery. Giving his age as thirty-one, he was a “farmer; eyes blue; hair sandy; complexion light;
height 5 ft. 6½ in.** At Brandy Station, Virginia, on 24 December 1863 he re-enlisted for three more years. At Albany on 14 June 1865 he was mustered out. Frank's town clerk reported in 1865 “nothing known of him since he was mustered out; supposed to be in NYC.” Frank was back in Hartland in April 1866, when he married Sally.

Frank's death, in 1869, generated no Niagara County estate record. On 11 May 1870 Sally applied for a Civil War widow's pension. She died three months later, and her application file was stamped “Abandoned.”

Frank and Christina had two daughters, born in Niagara County:

+ 2 i. **JULIA R. GREENFIELD,** born in 1852. Her last certain record is in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1894. Julia married in Lamont, Ottawa County, Michigan, on 27 January 1870, Bethuel Rice.

3 ii. **HARRIET GREENFIELD,** born in 1855–56. Her only known record is in 1860, but an 1870 note is ambiguous about her death date.


76. 1894 Mich. census, Kent Co., Grand Rapids, 2nd Ward, p. 79A, dwell. 30, fam. 88, Julia R. Rice; FHL microfilm 984,227, item 1. Julia, thirty-nine, was a widowed dressmaker who had lived in Michigan for twenty-four years. She had had two children, of whom one was living. She was born in New York, her father in “England” and her mother in Massachusetts.


79. Pension official's note, 20 May 1870, “Letter to Arty. for . . . children by former wife,” in Sarah Greenfield, widow's pension application no. 186,401 (Abandoned), Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, NA–Washington. The official's comment suggests the widow's attorney had mentioned “children by former wife.” The file does not contain, however, what the attorney had written. Harriet's apparent absence from the 1865 and 1870 censuses suggests she died by 1865, but the pension annotation suggests a possibility she was alive in 1870.
2. Julia R. Greenfield was born in 1852. The last certain record is in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1894.

On 27 January 1870, when living in Grandville, Michigan, Julia married Bethuel Rice in the nearby village of Lamont, in Tallmadge Township, Ottawa County, Michigan. She likely had moved to Grandville with her maternal uncle and aunt, Theodore and Harriet (Talcott) Connor, with whom she lived in Niagara County in 1865. Julia divorced Bethuel in 1880.

Julia and Bethuel had two children, born in Tallmadge Township:

4. **John “Johnnie” Rice**, born on 21 November 1870; died on 19 November 1952 at Grand Rapids, apparently single and childless.

5. **Hattie Rice**, born on 28 December 1871; died of cholera infantum on 3 August 1872 in Tallmadge Township.